

News Release

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Former minister sentenced to more than eight years on child pornography charges following ICE probe

Material included images of children being subjected to sadism and violence

SAN FRANCISCO – A federal judge here today ordered a former Minnesota minister to serve more than eight years in prison for transportation and possession of child pornography in what is believed to be one of the longest sentences ever imposed in northern California for a non-contact offense involving this kind of violation.

Mark Godbey Moore, 53, of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was sentenced today to 97 months in prison and eight years of supervised release after pleading guilty to transportation and possession of child pornography in connection with an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Moore, a former minister for the "Extended Grace Ministries," was found in possession of more than 1,000 images of child pornography during a routine search of his baggage by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at San Francisco International Airport in October 2005. At the time, Moore was returning from Bangkok, Thailand, to his home in Minnesota. Among the images CBP officers found were pictures of prepubescent children being subjected to bondage, sexual torture, and bestiality, as well as infants being forced to engage in sex acts with adults. Moore's Extended Grace Ministries was affiliated with several overseas orphanages.

Court documents in the case stated that Moore's high sentence was due in part to the egregious nature of his child pornography collection. Moore was sentenced by United States District Judge Jeffrey S. White, who included as a condition of release that Moore pay a fine of \$17,500 to a charity that cares for, or assists, sexually exploited children.

Moore is currently in custody. As part of his guilty plea, he admitted that he transported in foreign commerce and possessed visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

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